CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:

receiving, in a computer system, a set of alternative choices;

receiving, in the computer system, a set of criteria by which the set of alternative choices may be evaluated;

receiving, in the computer system via a data network coupled to the computer system, a set of assessments sent to the computer system by a set of individuals via the computer network, the assessments corresponding to respective criteria from the set of criteria and comprising a set of weights that indicate importance of respective criteria from the set of criteria and a set of evaluations that correspond to possible attributes of the respective criteria; and

based on the assessments, providing a relative analysis of the alternative choices;

wherein the assessments include pairwise comparison combined with direct entry.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the assessments include evaluation of alternatives using pairwise comparison combined with direct entry and multiple choice.

3. The method of claim 2 including determining a shift constant.

4. The method of claim 1 including determining a shift constant.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the determination of a shift constant comprises reference to a substantially ideal choice.

6. The method of claim 1, including performing a sensitivity analysis.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein direct entry comprises using a value function to determine grades.

8. The method of claim 1, including combining assessments of criteria to form analysis of respective criteria not directly assessed by the set of individuals.

9. A method comprising:

receiving, in a computer system, a set of alternative choices;

receiving, in the computer system, a set of criteria by which the set of alternative choices may be evaluated;

receiving, in the computer system via a data network coupled to the computer system, a set of assessments sent to the computer system by a set of individuals via the computer network, the assessments corresponding to respective criteria from the set of criteria and comprising a set of weights that indicate importance of respective criteria from the set of criteria and a set of evaluations that correspond to possible attributes of the respective criteria; and

based on the assessments, providing a relative analysis of the alternative choices;

wherein the assessments include pairwise comparison combined with multiple choice.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the assessments include evaluation of alternatives using pairwise comparison combined with direct entry and multiple choice

11. A system comprising logic in a computer system that:

receives a set of alternative choices;

receives a set of criteria by which the set of alternative choices may be evaluated;

receives, via a data network coupled to the computer system, a set of assessments sent to the computer system by a set of individuals via the computer network, the assessments corresponding to respective criteria from the set of criteria and comprising a set of weights and a set of evaluations; and

based on the assessments, provides a relative analysis of the alternative choices;

wherein the assessments include pairwise comparison combined with at least one of direct entry and multiple choice.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein the logic comprises software.

13. The system of claim 11, wherein the logic comprises electronic hardware.

14. The system of claim 11, including determining of weights using pairwise comparison combined with direct entry.

15. The system of claim 11, including evaluating alternatives using pairwise comparison combined with multiple choice.

16. A method comprising:

receiving, in a computer system, a set of alternative choices;

receiving, in the computer system, a set of criteria by which the set of alternative choices may be evaluated;

receiving, in the computer system via a data network coupled to the computer system, a set of assessments sent to the computer system by a set of individuals via the computer network, the assessments corresponding to respective criteria from the set of criteria and comprising a set of weights and a set of evaluations, and wherein the assessments include pairwise comparison;

providing a solution that avoids iterative computations; and

based on the solution, providing a relative analysis of the alternative choices.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the solution comprises determining an inverse matrix.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein the solution comprises:

determining at least one pairwise comparison matrix corresponding to at least one individual from the set of individuals;

determining a cardinality matrix corresponding to the pairwise comparison matrices;

determining a cardinality summation matrix comprising the row totals of the cardinality matrix;

determining an intermediate matrix by subtracting the cardinality matrix from the cardinality summation matrix;

determining an inverse intermediate matrix by evaluating the matrix-inverse of the intermediate matrix;

determining a summation pairwise matrix by summing together the pairwise comparison matrices; and

based on a multiplication of the inverse intermediate matrix, the summation pairwise matrix and a unit column vector; providing a relative analysis of the alternative choices.

19. The method of claim 16, wherein the relative analysis of the alternative choices comprises determination of a measure of consistency of the assessments.

20. The method of claim 16, including leaving blank a respective entry in the pairwise comparison matrix to account for an assessment not provided by an individual providing fewer assessments than the total possible number of assessments available for the set of alternatives.